

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING HAWAII'S 2008
LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES
CHAMPIONS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate our Little League team from Waipio, HI, for winning the 2008 Little League World Series last month in Williamsport, PA.

On Sunday, August 24, the Waipio Little League team from West Oahu defeated international division champion Matamoros, Mexico in the Little League World Series Championship game, by a score of 12 to 3.

Led by pitcher Caleb Duhay, who struck out seven, and infielder Tanner Tokunaga, who hit two home runs, the team from Waipio scored first and never trailed. Outfielder Iolana Akau added another Waipio home run and made a spectacular diving catch late in the game to lock in Waipio's victory.

Waipio's team roster includes Matthew Yap, Kainoa Fong, Ulumano Farm, Christian Donahue, Iolana Akau, Trevor Ling, Jordan Ulep, Caleb Duhay, Jedd Andrade, Tanner Tokunaga, Pikai Winchester, Keelen Obodoza, and Khade Paris. The team is led by manager Timo Donahue and coaches Kiha Akau and Gregg Tsugawa.

Waipio went undefeated in the Little League World Series Tournament, beating seven U.S. teams to get into the U.S. Championship game. Hawaii beat a spirited team from Lake Charles, LA, 7 to 5, in an exciting, come-from-behind victory, to advance to the World Championship game.

I am proud of their impressive victory but more so of the humility and sportsmanship that the team from Waipio displayed as they won with aloha. I recognize the sacrifices made by the coaches, family members, and friends, who worked hard to help these youngsters follow their dreams. I applaud them all and wish them the best in future endeavors, both on the field and off.●

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY
COMMISSION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, when I visit eastern Iowa, I often drive along the Mississippi River. And there, on any given day, one can visit this area and marvel at the sight of the mighty Mississippi River winding its way south from Lake Itasca in Minnesota toward the Gulf of Mexico—a total distance of over 2,500 miles. From this vantage point, high above the river, you see pleasure boaters and fishermen spending the day on the water. You can see river barges carrying Iowa corn and soybeans to far away markets. And most importantly, you see that this is a national treasure that needs to be protected and preserved for all generations to come.

The Mississippi Parkway Commission was created in 1938 in order to develop

and oversee what was at that time called the Mississippi River Parkway. The Parkway Commission is the only organization connecting all 10 States bordering the Mississippi River, with a mission devoted to promoting, preserving, and enhancing the resources of the Mississippi River Valley, and to developing the amenities of the Great River Road.

This year, 10 States, including my home State of Iowa, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission and the Great River Road. Among the many accomplishments of the commission of the past 70 years are the development of a Great River Road Interpretive Center Network, a consumer Web site, and National Scenic Byway designation for the majority of the Great River Road. In carrying out its duties, the commission has partnered with a number of Federal agencies, including the National Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

On the occasion of its anniversary, I wish to congratulate the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, as well as the commission's new national Pilot, Patsi Ramicitti from Bettendorf, IA. I am pleased that Patsi's energy and dedication to advancing one of the region's most vital assets are being recognized. May her efforts and those of all past, present and future members of the commission continue to strengthen the knowledge of and access to the incredible natural resources offered by the mighty Mississippi.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES LANDERS

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I would like to recognize remarkable contributions of 91-year-old Frances Landers of El Dorado, AR. At a time when most people consider retirement, Frances dedicated the past 30 years of her life to making education accessible to the children of Haiti. Through her selfless years of service, Frances' work and formation of the Haiti Education Foundation have opened educational doors of opportunity for hundreds of children who otherwise might never have learned to read.

Frances visited Haiti this past April to say her goodbyes, for this was most likely her last visit. She first came to Haiti in 1977 as a medical volunteer with her late husband Dr. Gardner Landers, an ophthalmologist, to help people with cataract problems. Dr. and Mrs. Landers began making two trips a year, providing surgery and eyeglasses to the Haitian people. During these visits, she met Father Jean-Wilfrid Albert, a chaplain of the mission hospital. Through Father Albert and her numerous mission trips, Frances discovered that many villages had no school and most citizens were illit-

erate. Impassioned to make a difference, Frances returned to Arkansas and began raising money. Through her dedication, perseverance and conviction, she soon launched one school, and over time, many others followed.

Because of her establishment of the Haiti Education Foundation, there are now 40 primary schools and 10 secondary schools, which are currently educating more than 11,000 Haitian children. Through donations and scholarships, the foundation provides schooling, hot lunches, shoes, school uniforms, textbooks, Creole bibles, milk, and goats for families. These schools set the foundation for students to enroll in universities and pursue careers that allow them to break past poverty barriers.

Ms. Landers continues to raise awareness and funding to ensure the foundation's success. She has lived in service to the people of Haiti and is an extraordinary example of what can be achieved when committed to a worthwhile endeavor. Today, I honor and thank Frances Landers for her continual interest in others and inspiring those around her to do the same.●

HONORING SOJOURNER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the exceptional educators at Sojourner Elementary School of Milwaukie, OR. Last week, Intel Corporation named Sojourner the "Star Innovator" among six winners of the 2008 Intel Schools of Distinction Awards and among hundreds of applicants who entered the competition.

Intel Corporation chose Sojourner Elementary because of its groundbreaking teaching strategies in mathematics and the marked improvement of its young math students. Oregon State Assessment data indicate that mathematics achievement at Sojourner has steadily improved over the past 4 years. Sojourner uses an innovative "team teaching" approach. At each level, at least one teacher completes additional coursework and training in mathematics. This ongoing professional development has resulted in teachers specializing in content and academic knowledge in mathematics.

Increasingly, technology is playing an important role in the classroom, and teachers at Sojourner are using it effectively to excite and engage students. Computers at Sojourner are equipped with the software necessary to complete computer-based units from the school's math curriculum, and teachers are trained to implement these units. With Intel's Star Innovator award, Sojourner Elementary will receive additional funds, products, and services to continue its unique program.

Sojourner also involves parents in the learning process, a proven strategy for improving the performance of young students. Newsletters produced at each level inform parents as to the